(b) if so, the details thereof and which adventurous sports would be promoted by this Institute; and

(c) by when, the Institute would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Employment and rehabilitation of youth in A.P.

5517. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to assist the Chief Minister's empowerment of youth programme, being arranged by Andhra Pradesh Government, for employment and rehabilitation of youths; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, how youths would be encouraged in their-self employment efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Under the Scheme of Promotion of Youth Activities and Training, financial assistance is extended to State/UT Governments, and voluntary organisations for imparting vocational training to the youth with a view to upgrading their skills, as a means of furthering self-employment.

Improving the sports standard

5518. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to improve the standards of Indian sports at the international arena during the last five years;

(b) whether the same has shown improvements;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Government of India has taken following major steps to improve the standard of Indian sports at the international level during the last five years:—

(i) International standard infrastructure created and provided to the sports persons for training.

(ii) Imported equipments provided to sports persons.

(iii) Services of foreign coaches and other allied experts have been made available to sports persons.

(iv) Latest scientific equipments procured to provide scientific support.

(v) Diet money given to sports persons has been increased.

(vi) The amount of cash awards given under the scheme of Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and Their Coaches has been increased to encourage our sports persons and coaches.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the 1998 Asian Games India won 35 (7G+11S + 17B) medals, improving our medal tally by 12 medals over previous performance of 23 (4G+3S+16B) medals in 1994 Asian Games. In 1998 Commonwealth Games India won 25 (7G+10S+8B) medals in comparison to 24 medals (6G+11S+7B) in 1994 Commonwealth Games, despite the fact that disciplines like Wrestling and Judo were not included in 1998 Commonwealth Games, in which we used to win maximum number of medals. In 2000 Olympic Games we have Won 1 Bronze medal in Women Wightlifting and for the first time 6 Indian sports persons attained position in the first ten.

Besides above, Indian sportsperson won 324 medal including 192 medals in the SAF Games in 1999-2000. They also won 220 medals in 2000-2001 and 140 medals in 2001-2002 in various other international sports events. Shri Leander Paes and Shri Mahesh Bhupathi have won Men's doubles title in French Open Tennis Tournament, Wimbledon Tennis Tournament and ATP World Doubles Tennis Championship in 1999. They have also won Sinsinaty Masters Tennis Doubles

Tournament held in USA in 2001. Shri P. Gopi Chand won the Toulouse Open Badminton Championship and Scottish International Badminton Championship in 1999. He also won the All England Badminton Championship in 2001. Shri Vishwanathan Anand won FIDE World Chess Championship in 2000 and Merida International Chess Tournament in 2001. Shri Abhin Shyam Gupta won the French Open Badminton Championship in 2001.

(d) Does not arise.

Training/coaching centre for National Games in A.P.

5519. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sanction training or coaching centre in Andhra Pradesh to fully utilize the sports equipment and infrastructure being created by the State Government to conduct the 32nd National Games at Hyderabad, from 15th to 25th November, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how active encouragement to sports and games would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHANAN): (a) to (c) The Finance Committee of Sports Authority of India (SAI) has taken a decision to open a SAI sub-centre at Tirupati. Besides this, there is a proposal to establish a Special Area Games Centre for Rowing at Hussain Sagar Lake, Hyderabad. Apart from these, there are 5 SAI training centres in the State of Andhra Pradesh, where 205 SAI trainees are under going training in various sports disciplines. Under the National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC), and Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) Schemes of SAI, there are 131 SAI trainees the infrastructure created and equipment so purchased can be fully utilised by these trainees whose number can be suitably increased if required.